

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of the allowability of claims 3-7 and 9-14. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 13 have been amended to place them in independent form by incorporating the substance of the claim(s) from which they depended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 13 are now in allowable condition, as are dependent claims 6, 10, 11, 12 and 14. Claims 1, 2, 8 and 15 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 23, 2002:

Martin Pfeffer

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

January 23, 2002

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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